

The 820 Newsletter



The Official Publication of the USS Rich Association, Inc.
Volume 18, Number 3

On the Internet: www.ussrich.org
August, 2011

Liberty Call: Richfield Ohio!

History - Richfield was founded in 1809 and incorporated in 1967. Four of John Brown's children are buried in Eastview Cemetery. The children, Austin, Charles, Peter and Sarah, all died in 1843 due to a smallpox epidemic when he was living in Richfield. Richfield is located at 41°14'1?N 81°37'56?W

According to the United States Census Bureau, the village has a total area of 8.5 square miles, all of it land.

Demographics - As of the census of 2000, there were 3,286 people, 1,227 households, and 952 families residing in the village. The population density was 387.1 people per square mile. There were 1,272 housing units at an average density of 149.8 per square mile. The racial makeup of the village was 97.35% White, 0.49% African American, 0.30% Native American, 1.31% Asian, 0.03% Pacific Islander, 0.06% from other races, and 0.46% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 0.24% of the population.

There were 1,227 households out of which 31.9% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 67.2% were married couples living together, 7.2% had a female householder with no husband present, and 22.4% were non-families. 19.1% of all households were made up of individuals and 8.1% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.61 and the average family size was 2.99.

In the village the population was spread out with 23.6% under the age of 18, 5.1% from 18 to 24, 26.0% from 25 to 44, 28.2% from 45 to 64, and 17.1% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 43 years. For every 100 females there were 98.2 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 95.3 males.

The median income for a household in the village was \$65,639, and the median income for a family was \$70,703. Males had a median income of \$51,052 versus \$30,431 for females. The per capita income for the village was \$32,888. About 3.3% of families and 3.5% of the population were below the poverty line, including 1.6% of those under age 18 and 6.7% of those age 65 or over.

Trivia - Cisco Systems maintains its wireless group headquarters in Richfield, at the site of the former Aironet Wireless Networks facility. Cisco purchased Aironet to form the basis of its wireless product line.

element14's national sales center is located in Richfield.

The Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation operates a field office in Richfield.

Richfield, Ohio is home of the FedEx depot for all of Northeast Ohio.

The Richfield Coliseum was home to the first two WWF Survivor Series pay per views. Richfield also held a third Survivor Series in 1992.

One thing for sure... our reunions in the mid-west have never disappointed. Hosts Bill & Annie Gross and their team will have all the details for the November issue of the *820 Newsletter!*



If You Are Wondering...

Our Reunion Host, Bill and Annie Gross are busy attending to details for the May 14-18, 2012 activities in Richfield, Ohio.

Details, as many of you know, are sometimes elusive and slow coming. Informed sources close to the situation have disclosed few specifics but also volunteered the information that significant attention will be given to horses, a boat and a golf cart.



Historic Fleet Update

Orleck Has All Four Boilers Online

The USS Orleck has all four boilers online (figuratively speaking) with activities and events well underway.

One of the few Gearings still afloat, it seems the community of Lake Charles, LA has welcomed her with open arms to her new retirement home.

Their new and handsome website is chocked full of details about the USS Orleck Naval Museum. The URL is <http://orleck.org/1.6/>



Hours of operation will be scheduled for Monday - Friday from 10:00am-3:00pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00am-4:00pm. Please, contact our office for holiday hours and closures - (337) 433-4083.

The 820 Newsletter

The 820 Newsletter is the official publication of the USS Rich Association, Inc. It is published quarterly in the first week of February, May, August and November.

The newsletter is included in the membership dues and is sent to a member's home via First Class mail if requested. Non-member subscriptions are available.

The entire content of the 820 Newsletter is © 2011 by the USS Rich Association, Inc. and may not be used or reproduced in any manner without express permission. Other copyrighted material may appear and is the sole property of the copyrighter.

You may contact us on the Internet at shipsoffice@ussrich.org or snail mail to 8926 Phyliss Avenue, Sarasota, Florida 34231-7722.

Editor	Marshall K DuBois	SH2 (62-66)	941-966-1252
President	Johnny V Skillen	BMSN (64-66)	870-535-3331 870-692-1173
Treasurer	Donald N Hogg	BM3 (62-64)	870-584-3319 870-584-8034

Laffey: No Change

The USS Laffey (DD724) remains as they say on their website "Floating proudly somewhere in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina." She's still all dressed up with no place to go.

The ship earned the nickname "The Ship That Would Not Die" for her exploits during the D-Day invasion and the battle of Okinawa when it successfully withstood a determined assault by both conventional and kamikaze air attacks.

The USS Rich Association supports the efforts of the Laffey Association and shares their frustration.



Service Officer's Notes



Hello Shipmates,

At our last reunion's business meeting I was appointed as Service Officer for our Association. If you are not familiar with the term, an SO is a fellow veteran who provides information and assists other vets in understanding their benefits and submitting necessary forms to get them. While I live far away from most of you, my primary role will be to provide you information and to answer your questions. If you need to file claims for benefits you can find many local qualified and competent SOs around the country who can help you with the necessary forms and records needed.

The American Legion, the VFW, AMVETS and the DAV all certify SOs. Every County in the US has an SO, though sometimes they use different titles – Director of Veterans' Affairs is the most common. A couple of things to remember - all SOs should have credentials to show you and they never, never accept anything in return for their services. Beware of internet based assistance as many have been exposed as money seeking scams. So that you know, here are my credentials: Registered Veterans Service Officer and Veterans Jurat Officer by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Certified Service Officer by the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars; National Service Officer of the Navy Nuclear Weapons Association, Service Officer of several Posts and Chapters and over 28 years as service in this capacity. I am a volunteer in all and unpaid and uncompensated. I am re-trained each year to keep up to date.

At our Association's website, www.ussrich.org, I will post some boilerplate information regarding veterans' benefits. There will be things of general interest to all and of a more permanent nature. In our newsletters I will try to keep you abreast of any significant changes in benefits and items of particular interest to our Rich sailors.

During some conversations at our last reunion, there was much interest regarding crew members who served during the Vietnam War and who may have been exposed to Agent Orange (TCDD) herbicides. Some of our crewmembers have developed diseases and conditions that have been linked to AO. In this newsletter I will address the AO exposure issue.

As we all know, Agent Orange was used extensively in Vietnam to defoliate vegetation to enable better discovery of the enemy. By 1991 it was realized that AO was harmful and Vietnam Vets had higher than average numbers of certain diseases and conditions. In that year the Congress passed the Agent Orange Act to make it easier for Vietnam Vets to obtain Disability Compensation (DiComp). As a result, 14 diseases were "conceded" as being caused by AO exposure and the VA at first recognized all Vietnam Vets as AO exposed. Shortly thereafter, however, the VA only recognized only those with "boots on the ground" in Vietnam as conceded. That position was challenged in the courts but the VA prevailed. Then the VA recognized all "Brown Water Navy" vets and those on certain ships that docked in VN as conceded. "Blue Water Navy" vets have to prove their AO exposure. By contrast, the Australian Navy has conceded all of their Vietnam Navy vets as AO exposed.

In May, 2011 the US Institute of Medicine announced the results of their investigation relating AO exposure to those 14 diseases in Blue Water Navy vets. The results were inconclusive because the US did not collect sufficient information about Navy vets to come to a scientific conclusion. The fight ensues.

If you have any of those 14 diseases(including Type 2 diabetes, Parkinson's disease, ischemic heart and several cancers) and served on Rich during her Vietnam cruise, you will currently need to prove that you spent at least one day IN Vietnam in order to substantiate your claim for AO exposure. I encourage you to submit claims even if they are disapproved. Many are still fighting the VA's determination of conceded exposure to AO and if they are successful, your claims will be retroactively approved to the date of first submission.

If you have any questions on this or any other service related topic, please feel free to send me an email about it.

Yours in service,
Chuck Weber
Registered Veterans Service Officer
VetSO@ptd.net



Agent Orange Study Is Inconclusive

It has been nearly a month since the Institute of Medicine released its [report on Agent Orange exposure](#) and so-called Blue Water Navy veterans from Vietnam, yet the Department of Veterans Affairs says it is still reviewing the document. That's not surprising, for the report is chock-full of nonconclusions, unknowns and uncertainties.

"The committee could not find enough data to determine whether or not Blue Water Navy personnel were exposed to Agent Orange-associated TCDD," the report said, using the initials for dioxin, the toxic chemical in Agent Orange that has been linked to many diseases. Indeed, the report was so full of caveats that the committee all but conceded that its report would not resolve the debate over who was exposed to, and potentially sickened by, dioxin.

"Given the lack of measurements taken during the war and the almost 40 years since the war, this will never be a matter of science but instead a matter of policy," the authors wrote.

Nevertheless, advocates for the deep-sea sailors argue that the report provides them powerful ammunition for gaining benefits that have already been given to troops that actually set foot in Vietnam. Indeed, one group argues that the lack of conclusiveness in the report actually bolsters the case that all Vietnam veterans, regardless of whether they served on the ground, in the air or miles off the coast, should be treated the same.

"No group of individuals has stronger factual exposure than any other, putting Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force and Coast Guard personnel on an equal footing regarding the possibility of exposure to herbicides in Vietnam," the [Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Association](#) said in a statement. Dioxin has been linked to an array of diseases, from cancer to heart conditions.

In 1991, Congress enacted legislation saying that Vietnam veterans with diseases associated with defoliants like Agent Orange should be treated as if those diseases were the result of their service in the war.

That presumption of service-related sickness made it simpler for Vietnam veterans to receive health care and disability compensation. Over the years, the Department of Veterans Affairs has recognized 14 diseases as being related to exposure to defoliants, including Parkinson's disease, multiple myeloma, Type 2 diabetes and some relatively common illness among the aging, like ischemic heart disease and prostate cancer.

Initially, the department interpreted the law to apply to anyone in any of the armed services who deployed to Vietnam. But in 2002, the department narrowed its interpretation, requiring veterans to demonstrate that they set foot in Vietnam, or served on boats operating on inland waterways, to claim presumptive exposure to a defoliant.

That meant that infantry and so-called Brown Water Navy sailors could say their dioxin-related illnesses were the result of Agent Orange exposure. But sailors stationed on deep-water ships off the Vietnam coast — so-called Blue Water sailors — would not be presumed to have been exposed to defoliants, making it more difficult for them to apply for benefits. That interpretation was upheld by a federal appellate court in 2008.

But that court decision did not end the debate. Through pressure from the Blue Water Navy veterans, bills have been introduced into Congress that would give deep-water sailors equal status to ground troops and Brown Water sailors. The veterans also prodded the Department of Veterans

Continues next page ->



...but Is Conclusive Enough for Vet Groups

Affairs to study the issue. The result was the Institute of Medicine report released last month.

Given the inconclusiveness of the institute's report, it had been considered unlikely that the veterans department would change its rules to make it easier for Blue Water sailors to obtain Agent Orange benefits. But the Blue Water veterans association asserts that would be the wrong conclusion to draw from the study.

The association notes that the report finds that sprayed dioxin could have reached the sea on the wind or in runoff carried by streams and rivers, though the report suggests that the amounts would have been relatively small.

"TCDD would enter coastal marine water from river discharge (albeit a very small load because of the mechanisms discussed) and from spray drift," the report says. "The committee concludes that TCDD loading due to spray drift could have occurred but would have been minimal."

The report also says that deep-sea sailors could then have encountered dioxin through direct exposure to contaminated seawater, by swimming for instance, or through drinking water that was distilled from seawater contaminated with dioxin. (Large ships generated their own potable water by distilling ocean water.)

The report also said some Blue Water sailors might have inhaled dioxin or had contact with it through their skin if they were near coastal waters while defoliant was being spraying inland.

"The committee cannot provide quantitative estimates of exposure by any of the exposure pathways described above because of lack of data," the report concludes. "At best, the committee can judge whether specific routes of exposure are plausible."

That plausibility should be good enough reason for the government to extend benefits to the

deep-sea sailors of Vietnam, the Blue Water veterans say. Some major veterans groups agree.

"If not the smoking gun, this report reinforces the need for benefits to be paid to our Vietnam War Blue Water sailors," said Jimmie L. Foster, national commander of [the American Legion](#). "Reasonable doubt should be given to the veteran who shows symptoms of having been exposed to Agent Orange, especially if he or she served in a theater where we know the herbicide may have been used directly or carried to by other means."

It is not entirely clear, however, that the report did in fact place all veterans on equal footing. "The committee concludes that, qualitatively, ground troops and Brown Water Navy personnel had more pathways of exposure to Agent Orange-associated TCDD than did Blue Water Navy personnel," the report says.

But John Wells, a retired Navy commander and spokesman for the Blue Water veterans association, said it did not matter whether there were fewer ways for deep-sea sailors to be exposed. "You only need to be exposed once," he said in an e-mail message. "If you were on board a ship in Territorial Seas of RVN, you were exposed," he said, referring to the Republic of Vietnam.

As the veterans department continues to review the report, many veterans believe their best chance of winning benefits is through legislation circulating on Capitol Hill. But given the current budget-cutting climate in Congress, it is far from clear that such legislation will pass.

By some estimates, as many as 800,000 service members could be eligible for expanded benefits if the legislation passes, with the cost potentially running into billions of dollars. But Mr. Wells said the number of eligible Blue Water veterans who are still alive could be fewer than 60,000.

The debate continues.

The Problem With Petty Officer Gurney

From the Internet, August 2010

Petty Officer First Class Ethan Gurney will retire from the Navy this fall, after 20 years of service. Critics of the military retirement system say that's too soon, creating long-term fiscal problems for the Defense Department (Stars and Stripes photo).

According to a Pentagon advisory board, Navy Petty Officer First Class Ethan Gurney represents what's wrong with the military retirement system.

Petty Officer Gurney joined the Navy out of high school, and has served honorably as an electronics technician for almost two decades. This fall, after reaching 20 years of active duty service, Gurney will retire from the Navy and begin drawing a retirement check--at the ripe old age of 38.

From the board's perspective, that's too soon. With advances in medicine and increasing longevity, Gurney and his fellow military retirees will live for decades after leaving active duty, collecting billions of dollars in pensions, health care and other benefits.

The Defense Business Board, tasked by Defense Secretary Robert Gates to find ways to cut Pentagon spending, says the current retirement system is "unsustainable" and must be fixed. Without reforms, payments for military retirees will grow from \$47.7 billion this year, to just under \$60 billion by 2020.

As Stars and Stripes recently reported:

The 25-member group of civilian business leaders suggests that the Defense Department look at changing the current system, even hinting at raising the number of years troops must serve before being eligible for retirement pay.

The current system "encourages our military to



leave at 20 years when they are most productive and experienced, and then pays them and their families and their survivors for another 40 years," committee chairman Arnold Punaro told board members at their quarterly meeting late last month.

Among the "reforms" being suggested by the advisory panel: delaying payments to retirees, in exchange for earlier "vesting" in the program. One proposal being studied by the board would provide a limited retirement benefit for military members who serve as little as 10 years. Those personnel would receive their pension at age 60 under the reform plan, while those with 20 years of service would begin receiving checks at age 57--almost 20 years after some of them leave active duty.

The hypocrisy of the "reformers" is almost laughable. Board chairman Arnold Punaro worries about a system that "encourages [military members] to leave when they're most productive and experienced, then pays them, their family and their dependents for the next 40 years."

But Punaro hasn't declined his military retire-

Continued next page ->



The Problem...

(from preceding page)

-ment check. Turns out that Mr. Punaro is also a retired Major General in the Marine Corps. According to Forbes, he currently works as an executive Vice President at defense contractor SAIC, where his total compensation in 2009 topped \$2.7 million. That's almost three times what Petty Officer Gurney will collect in military retirement pay, even if he lives to age 80. And we didn't include Punaro's USMC pension in that total, either.

Fact is, the typical military retiree is a lot closer to Gurney than General Punaro. When he leaves active duty later this year, Petty Officer Gurney will receive a gross monthly pension of just over \$1,800. By the time you deduct federal and state taxes and allotments for such items as the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), dental insurance and other expenses, Gurney's "rich" pension will be closer to \$1,400 a month.

Indeed, the average person retiring from the military at the 20-year point is an E-6, the same rank as Petty Officer Gurney. Most are married, with kids in school, and (if they're lucky) that \$1,400 pension will cover their mortgage payment. Compare that to say, the average annuity for a state employee in New York, New Jersey or California and tell us who's getting rich in retirement.

Punaro's critique also misses a pair of critical points. There are two primary reasons the military has always embraced an early retirement system. First, it's a powerful recruiting and retention tool, particularly for mid-level officers and NCOs, who form the backbone of our armed forces. Allowing retirement at the 20-year point keeps a lot of mid-level officers and non-commissioned officers in uniform, ensuring an adequate supply of experienced personnel.

By comparison, if the military allows individuals to earn delayed benefits after only 10 years of service, it would only accelerate the exodus of skilled troops. Individuals with highly marketable skills (including intelligence, nuclear power, special forces and contracting, to name a few) would leave at the first opportunity, further eroding experience levels at the most critical ranks.

Additionally, there's the matter of who's best suited for certain military jobs. No offense to General Punaro, but jobs like Marine rifleman, Army ranger, Air Force combat controller and Navy fighter pilot (to name a few) are best handled by the young. True, experience does improve with age, but reflexes, vision, hearing and physical conditioning tend to deteriorate as we get older. And sometimes, experience is no substitute for the strength, speed and stamina found in younger troops.

Another critic of the current system, Nathaniel Fick of the left-leaning Center for a New American Security, has wondered "Why we're paying 38-year-olds" as they embark on their second full career. Fick, a former Marine Corps officer, made the comment in a recent article published at the Foreign Policy website.

We think the best rejoinder to that argument comes from Petty Officer Gurney, a man who is (supposedly) the poster boy for problems in our military pension system. For 20 years of dedicated and faithful service, Gurney simply expects the Navy to meet the promise it made to him. And he observes that (relatively) few people are willing to meet the demands for that 20-year pension: "No rational person would put up with 20 years of the hardships that you're forced to endure if it wasn't for the brass ring at the end of it all called instant retirement," said Petty Officer 1st Class Gurney.

"The continuous deployments, living conditions, remote and hazardous duty stations are unique to the military," he said. "This isn't a civilian company, so any civilian model that you use to compare to the military is impertinent. To do so is irresponsible at best."

Continued next page ->



The Problem...

(from preceding page)

Bravo Zulu, Petty Officer Gurney. Couldn't have said it better ourselves. Unfortunately, Secretary Gates now views the military retirement system as Fiscal Problem #1, so some sort of reforms appear inevitable. Never mind that the current system has served the military well, and payments will eventually decline, as retirees from Korea, Vietnam and the Reagan eras pass on.

One more thing: we find the current fixation on military retirement rather curious, for other reasons. The Pentagon has suddenly discovered that its payments for retiree medical coverage are out-of-control, just months after the Obama Administration pushed through national health care coverage. Gee...doesn't DOD have the option of potentially pushing military retirees into the national plan, saving billions of dollars each year--and creating more "urgency" for preserving the new system? Coincidence? You decide.

Likewise, Secretary Gates (and his bosses in the White House) would like to find other ways to save money at the Pentagon. If they can put off pension payments for years after military retirees leave active duty, so much the better. I'm sure that DOD's actuaries have already calculated the number of personnel who will die during that "gap" between their retirement ceremony and the age of 57 or 60, when the first retirement check rolls in. How much would DOD save using that approach, and where will that money go? So far, Dr. Gates hasn't answered that one.

Equally galling is the growing demand for the reform of military retirement benefits, while the "big" entitlement programs (Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid) just keep on growing. Even at the inflated totals cited in the Stars and Stripes article, military pensions represent only a fraction of our annual Social Security payments--and that system will go broke long before the armed forces retirement system. But it's (apparently) more important to fix military pensions, with little regard for the long-term impact on retention and experience levels in the ranks.

Go figure.

Annual Meeting

The following are highlights of the Annual Business Meeting held on April 16, 2011:

- Treasurer was absent due to illness
- Minutes of 2010 Business meeting approved
- \$500 was authorized for a trial project to find additional shipmates.
- Chuck Weber appointed as Veteran Services Office
- A \$200 donation was authorized to the Tin Can Sailors Association's Memorial Fund.
- The location of the 2013 reunion was changed to New Milford, CT. The 2014 reunion will be held in Myrtle Beach, SC
- Recognition was given to Dick Koeniger for a "Job Well Done" with the 2011 Reunion.
- Additional research will be conducted concerning the whereabouts of the ship's bell.
- USS LAFFEY's status has not changed. Association members will check with the USS ORLECK in Lake Charles, LA to determine the status of visiting work parties.
- Vice President and two Directors positions were up for election. With no nominations from the floor, John Szabo was re-elected as Vice President with Gary Wilson and Jim Carroll being re-elected as Directors.
- Three additional shipmates have volunteered to host future reunions:
 - Dave Kinne—Westford, Massachusetts
 - Jim Chester—Largo, Florida
 - Gary Medlin—Virginia Beach, Virginia
- The Ship's Store will close permanently. The association will look into a third party to provide USS RICH branded merchandise
- Medical Information forms will be included in the initial mailing of registration info.
- John Szabo read a congratulatory letter from Kentucky Governor Steven Beshear.



YOU CAN LEAVE THE MILITARY -- BUT...

IT NEVER REALLY LEAVES YOU

Ed. Note: Although written for the Army is certainly applies to all other branches of the military.

Occasionally, I venture back out to the Army Post where I'm greeted by an imposing security guard who looks carefully at my identification card, hands it back and says, "Have a good day, "Sergeant Major."

Every time I go back onto the Post it feels good to be called by my previous rank, but odd to be in civilian clothes, walking among the servicemen and servicewomen going about their duties as I once did, years ago.

The military is a comfort zone for anyone who has ever worn the uniform. It's a place where you know the rules and know they are enforced -- a place where everybody is busy but not too busy to take care of business.

Because there exists behind the gates of every military facility an institutional understanding of respect, order, uniformity, accountability and dedication that becomes part of your marrow and never, ever leaves you.

Personally, I miss the fact that you always knew where you stood in the military, and who you were dealing with.

That's because you could read somebody's uniform from 20 feet away and know the score. Service personnel wear their careers on their sleeves, so to speak. When you approach each other, you can read their name tag, examine their rank and, if they are in dress uniform, read their ribbons and know where they've served.

I miss all those little things you take for granted when you're in the ranks, like breaking starch on a set of fatigues fresh from the laundry and standing in a perfectly straight line military formation that looks like a mirror as it stretches to the endless horizon. I miss the sight of troops marching in the early morning mist, the sound of boot heels thumping in unison on the tarmac, the bark of sergeants and the

sing-song answers from the squads as they pass by in review.

To romanticize military service is to be far removed from its reality, because it's very serious business -- especially in times of war. But I miss the salutes I'd throw at officers and the crisp returns as we criss-crossed during our work day. I miss the smell of jet fuel hanging heavily on the night air and the sound of helicopter engines as they "wop, wop", disappearing into the clouds. I even miss the hurry-up-and-wait mentality that enlisted men gripe about constantly, a masterful invention that bonded people more than they'll ever know or admit.

I miss people taking off their hats when they enter a building, speaking directly and clearly to others and never showing disrespect for rank, race, religion or gender. Mostly I miss being a small cog in a machine so complex it constantly circumnavigates the Earth and so simple it feeds everyone on time, three times a day, on the ground, in the air or at sea.

Mostly, I don't know anyone who has served who regrets it, and doesn't feel a sense of pride when they pass through those gates and re-enter the world they left behind with their youth. I wish I could express my thoughts as well about something I loved -- and hated sometimes.

Face it guys - we all miss it.....Whether you had one tour or a career, it shaped your life.

"A veteran is someone who, at one point, wrote a blank check made payable to 'The United States of America' with the amount up to, and sometimes including, their life."

IN GOD WE TRUST!

Submitted by Jerry Dunnigan, BMSN (65-67)



Personnel Changes

JUL



Crew Reporting Aboard

Miller	Kenneth	MM2	71-77	Houston	TX	ken.deborah-at-sbcglobal.net
Hammersley	James	RD3	68-72	Simpson	IL	cehammer-at-shawneelink.net



Piped Ashore - Deceased

JUN



Crew Reporting Aboard

Oberlies	Mike	SN	59-61	Gulfport	MS	mikeoberlies-at-yahoo.com
----------	------	----	-------	----------	----	---------------------------



Piped Ashore - Deceased

Walker	Eugene	ETC	46-47	Scottsville	AZ	08 MAY 2011
--------	--------	-----	-------	-------------	----	-------------

MAY



Crew Reporting Aboard

Fenlon	Leslie K	CAPT	65-67	Virginia Beach	VA	17 JAN 2011
--------	----------	------	-------	----------------	----	-------------



Piped Ashore - Deceased

CoNdoLences

.(None reported)

ON THE MEND

(None reported)

No Longer Traveling

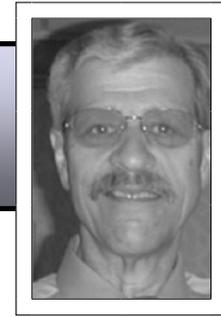
Some of our shipmates no longer travel away from home due to health and/or other reasons. These men still want to maintain contact with shipmates. Their email address is posted on the USS Rich web site or you may obtain their postal address from the Ships Office.

Beebe	James	BM3	67-68	Floral City	FL
Brown	Raymond	S1c	46-48	St James City	FL
Buxton	Alan	SM2	68-72	Peterborough	NH
Cowperwaith	Charles	MM3	49-52	Pennsville	NJ
Duclos	Armand	ET1	56-59	Nashua	NH
Hill	Robert E	LTjg	50-51	Sun City Ctr	FL
Schwartz	John E	BMSN	61-63	Fairmont	WV
Wilson	Henry L	SO2	50-53	Richmond	KS
Zimmerman	Raymond	MM3	54-59	Mechanicsburg	PA



Dunnigan's Corner

"Where the old sailors come for a good laugh"



Norfolk Naval Station, 1300, parking lot of the Chief's Club.

All station personnel required to fall in for visiting Admiral to inspect upon his arrival. Master Chief tells SN Timmy that he is to go to the Main Gate and call him at the club when the Admiral comes through the gate, ETA 1345.

At 1400 Admiral arrives at main gate and SN Timmy rushes over to the vehicle and asks "are you the admiral that is here for the inspection?"

Reply was "Yes I am, why?"

SN Timmy says " just thought I would warn you that the Master Chief expected you at 1345 and you're late. Stand by for an ass chewing."



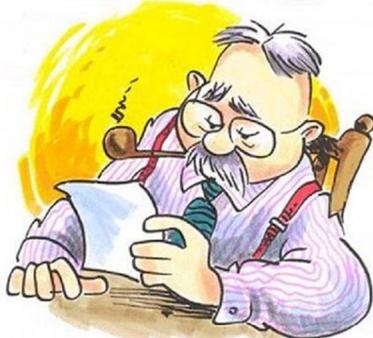
INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT SEX:

- FACT:** 79,000,000 people are engaged in sex - right now.
- FACT:** 58,000,000 are kissing.
- FACT:** 37,000,000 are relaxing after having sex.
- FACT:** 1 old timer is reading a newsletter.

Hang in there, Sunshine ...you had your turn



YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING OLD
WHEN YOUR BANK SENDS YOU
THEIR FREE CALENDAR...



ONE MONTH AT A TIME!

Upon reaching 65, I decided to retire. After Being under foot for a few months, my wife became very agitated with me. She suggested I go and do something to occupy my time, like join a club, get a job or get a hobby.

I obliged and went out for a couple of hours. When I got home my wife asked about my day and I replied, "Oh, I just went down to the park and hung out with the guys. And oh yeah, I joined a parachute club.

"What? Are you nuts? You're 65 years old and you're going to start jumping out of airplanes?"

"Yeah, look I even got a membership card."

"You crazy old man, where's your glasses! This is a membership to a Prostitute Club, not a Parachute Club!"

"Oh, great! Now what am I going to do? I signed up for 5 jumps a week!"



Last night, my adult kids and I were sitting in the living room and I said to them, 'I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug.'

They got up, unplugged the TV and the Computer and threw out my wine.

They are such jerks.





8926 Phylliss Ave—Sarasota FL 34231



"Situational Leadership"



Mike Jones - Military.com